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Georgia College's Student Newspaper

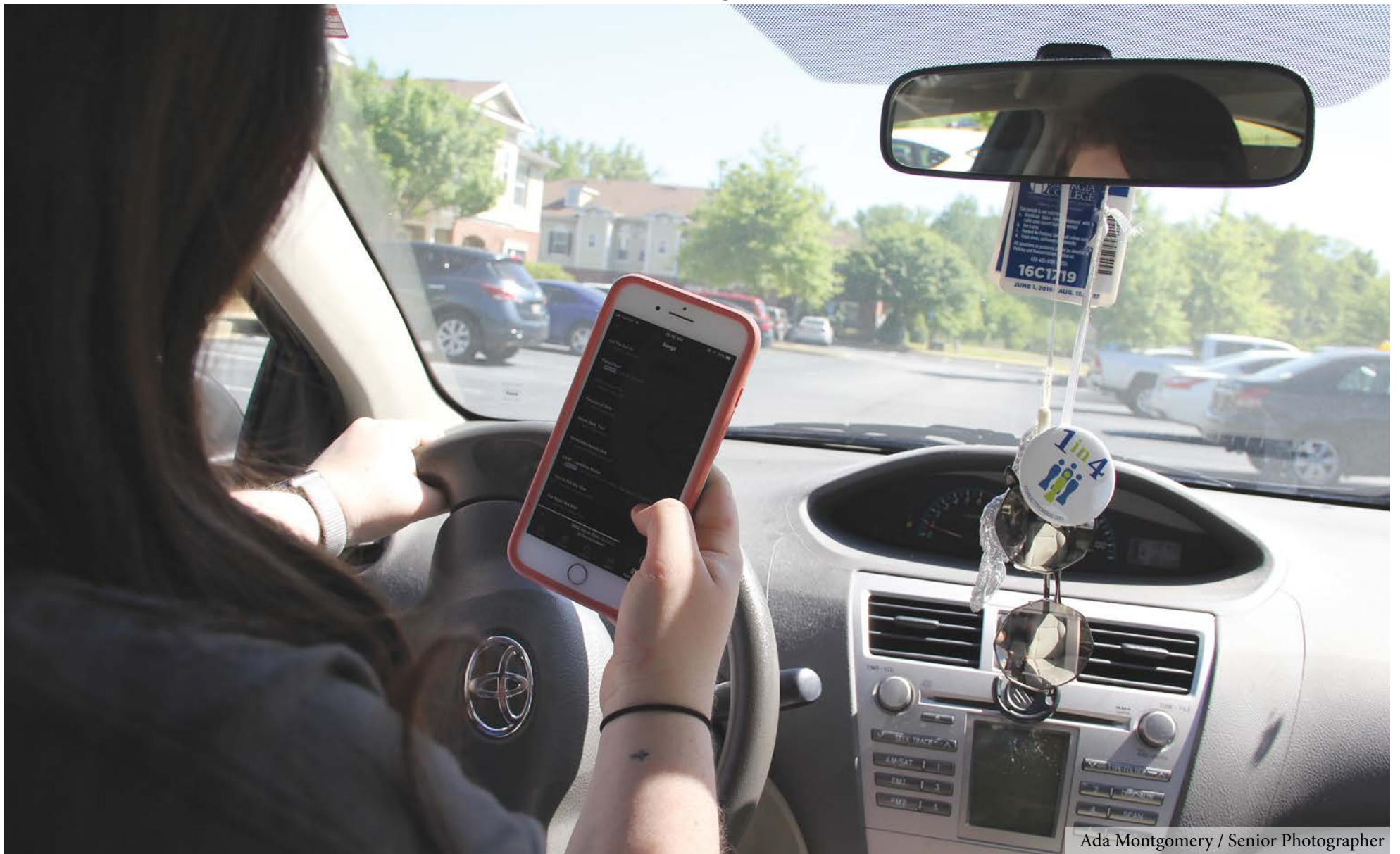
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Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

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Hands-Free Georgia Act cracks down on device usage

Isaiah Smith

Graduating Sports Editor

The state's legislature passed House Bill 673 on March 30 and Gov. Nathan Deal is expected to sign the bill into law Wednesday, May 2. The bill, which will officially be known as the Hands-Free Georgia Act, prohibits the possession of any wireless device while driving.

"The reason why this law is needed in Georgia is because there have been significant increases in car crashes, fatalities and bodily injuries in recent years," said Jenny Harty, an advocate for highway safety in Georgia. "The vast majority of those have been an increase in rear-end crashes, single-car crashes and crashes of drivers between 15 to 25 years old."

In 2017, the Georgia Department of Transportation reported 1,550 fatalities on the state's roadways.

In 15 states, similar laws to HB 673 have been enacted. Harty said traffic fatalities decreased by 16 percent for each of these states in the two years after hands-free driving laws were passed.

"Potentially, if that was to hold true for Georgia, that would equate it to 300 potential lives that are saved," Harty said. "That would be almost a high school class of students whose lives would be saved."

Once HB 673 takes effect on July 1, drivers cannot physically hold or support wireless telecommunications devices with any part of the body while driving. The bill also does not allow drivers to send messages without using a hands-free mechanism.

"We do have a lot of capabilities with newer cars where people can hook up their phones to their cars so they don't have to pick up their phones," said Alesa Liles, a criminal justice professor at GC. "If we're able to do that, we should be using those services."

Despite Georgia already having legislation that prohibits texting and driving, Harty said HB 673 gives officers a piece of legislation that is easier to enforce on the road.

"Our current texting and driving law is not enforceable because the law enforcement cannot tell the difference between if a driver is texting or dialing a phone number," Harty explained.

GC police chief Don Challis said his officers haven't issued any tickets for texting

and driving, and the new bill would not change the way that GC's officers will police roads around campus.

"I understand what the intent is, and I think we would act consistently with that intent, which is to reduce injuries," Challis said. "I don't think we're going to be sitting and waiting for somebody to drive by with their phone in their hand, but if it's causing an issue, then we may stop somebody for that."

Though some students have voiced frustration with HB 673 because of its restrictions, others like senior John Toney, a history major, support it.

"Texting or sending an email while driving is definitely more distracting than just looking down to change a song," Toney said. "But because of the nature of this issue, [legislators] have to take a blanket approach."

Toney also added that the bill could bring unintended effects on drivers who use phones while driving.

"I think some people will be trying get creative to text and drive," Toney said. "It could definitely be a double-edge sword, and in that case, I would rather somebody have their phone up instead of down trying to hide it."

The legislation also prohibits drivers from watching movies or videos, and it outlaws recording or broadcasting video on wireless



Ada Montgomery / Graduating Senior Photographer

The new house bill prohibits the possession of any wireless device while driving.

devices.

"Nowadays I've seen some cases where drivers are Snapchatting or filming a video while driving, which is a little outrageous," Liles said. "But oftentimes those are rarer cases and not things that everybody is doing all the time."

For those caught breaking this law, violators will face a maximum fine of \$50 for their first offense. For a second offense in a 24-month period, offenders will face a \$100 fine. And for three or more violations

in 24 months, the fine will increase to \$150.

Despite getting tougher on distracted driving, legislators also included a section in the bill that allows for some mobile device use in special situations.

Drivers are permitted to use cell phones in potentially hazardous situations, and they can look at screens that provide navigation services. Emergency personnel, like police officers and firefighters, are also permitted to use wireless communication devices while driving if they are performing official duties.

HOUSE BILL 673:

THE NEW LEGISLATION MAKES POSSESSING A CELL PHONE OR OTHER MOBILE DEVICES WHILE DRIVING PUNISHABLE BY LAW.

PROHIBITED ACTS....

- 1 PHYSICALLY HOLDING OR SUPPORTING A WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE
- 2 WRITING, SENDING OR READING ANY TEXT-BASED COMMUNICATION, INCLUDING TEXT MESSAGES, INSTANT MESSAGES, EMAILS, OR WIRELESS DATA
- 3 WATCHING MOVIES OR VIDEOS ON A WIRELESS DEVICE THAT IS NOT RELATED TO NAVIGATION
- 4 RECORDING OR BROADCASTING VIDEO ON WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES

PUNISHMENT

- 1ST OFFENSE: \$50 FINE
- 2ND OFFENSE WITHIN A 24 MONTH PERIOD: \$100 FINE
- 3RD OFFENSE WITHIN A 24-MONTH PERIOD: \$150 FINE

HB 673 DOES NOT APPLY WHEN:

- A. REPORTING A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, MEDICAL EMERGENCY, FIRE, AN ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL DELINQUENT ACT, OR A HAZARDOUS ROAD CONDITION
- B. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS OR ANY OTHER FIRST-RESPONDERS ARE PERFORMING OFFICIAL DUTIES.

How to win a Fulbright: Student edition

Lindsay Stevens
News Editor

GC mass communication alumna Janileyah Thompson is a finalist for the Fulbright English teaching assistantship in South Korea.

Thompson will leave for South Korea on July 6 to teach English and American culture to students for 13 months.

James Schiffman, a professor of mass communication and former teacher of Thompson's, said he believes that she will thrive there.

"It's the perfect place for her to be and for her to go," Schiffman said. "I couldn't be happier about someone getting a Fulbright."

The Fulbright Student Program has awarded approximately 1,900 grants annually in over 160 countries worldwide since its creation in 1946.

Step 1: Contact Anna Whiteside, GC's national scholarships and fellowships coordinator.

Because there are so many scholarships and fellowships to apply for and many steps to complete for each one, the best place to start is contacting Anna Whiteside for guidance.

"The awards are very complex," Whiteside said. "Looking at the Fulbright website, it is easy to get lost and overwhelmed. So that is a big part of what I do: help students take it apart, so they know what they are applying for."

Thompson went to Whiteside after she had studied abroad in South Korea to find out how she could go back there, so Whiteside introduced her to this program.

"Anna Whiteside had previously spoken to me about applying, so with that in mind, it just seemed like an obvious thing to apply for," Thompson said.

Step 2: Decide if you want to research and study or teach English.

For some students, like Thompson, this part of the process is a breeze because they already have a country in mind.

"Since I was in high school, my goal has always been to graduate early and go teach in South Korea, but my internship pretty much cemented for me that I could live there for a year or possibly more and be fine," Thompson said.

For the students who aren't so sure, though, Whiteside can help them decide if they want to either study and complete a research project or teach English as a second language.

"It really depends on what you're wanting to get out of it and what your interests are," Whiteside said. "They offer a lot of great opportunities, so it's a good idea for those students to come and talk with me. Sometimes it's easy, and sometimes it takes a little thought."

Step 3: Decide what country to go to.

After the applicant decides if they would rather research or teach, they need to decide what country they should go to. Some applicants, like Thompson, have already made up their mind.

"It was actually a high school assignment to watch a Korean soap opera that brought the country to my awareness," Thompson explained. "I loved how different their culture was from anything I'd learned about prior. From then on, I started teaching myself Korean and doing anything I could to get there one day, which culminated in my internship and now teaching there as a Fulbright recipient."

However, if the applicant hasn't already selected a country, Whiteside said they should seek counsel from the faculty in their department to help them narrow it down.

"I usually tell them to work with their faculty because they are really internationally connected," Whiteside said. "Our faculty will often have a colleague in another country who is doing a research project related to what the student will be interested in, so they can set them up with their fellow researcher."

Step 4: Complete your application.

Because the Fulbright application is quite long, it must be started as soon as possible if the candidate wants it to be flawless.

"The application is very lengthy, but it is a great award for people to apply to," said Whiteside. "The application involves a personal statement and a statement of grant purpose, where they talk about what they will do. If it is research, they outline their research project and what they are studying, and if it is teaching, they talk about what sorts of things they want to do in the classroom. Plus, some countries have a foreign language evaluation that is required."

Since Thompson was exempt from the foreign language evaluation, she could focus

on making sure her application was perfect through intensely editing her essays.

"My time was spent mostly revising essays and gathering letters of recommendation," Thompson said.

Students are encouraged to bring their applications to Whiteside and other GC faculty to help them review and revise it.

"We have people on campus who are willing to help these applicants and give them feedback," Whiteside said. "So, by the time they turn it in, in October, ideally lots of people will have seen it, and it's looking really good."

Step 5: Send in your application.

Before you send in your application to Fulbright, you must first send it to GC's National Scholarships Office at least one month before Fulbright's deadline.

"This year's application deadline is Oct. 9, but the school deadline is one month before Fulbright deadline because Fulbright requires us to do interviews with all students who are

applying," Whiteside said.

After the candidates send in their applications, they must wait until January to find out if they are a semi-finalist. Fulbright then announces finalists sometime between March and May.

"I'd say that it takes determination, persistence and passion with an additive of believing in yourself and your abilities," Thompson said. "It's a very competitive national program, and if you're doubting yourself from the start, then you've already shot yourself in the foot."

If any graduated or graduating students are interested in applying for this position, Whiteside encourages them to visit her office.

"If anyone thinks they are interested in this, come talk to me," Whiteside said. "I am a 12-month employee, so you can definitely shoot me an email or give me a phone call. Summers are a great time to work on these applications."

STEPS TO WINNING A FULBRIGHT

1

CHOOSE A COUNTRY TO APPLY TO

2

ACHIEVE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION AND INVITATION

3

WRITE A DETAILED PERSONAL STATEMENT AND PROJECT PROPOSAL

4

RESEARCH A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

5

THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE GOALS

Old dam causes erosion of Oconee River Greenway

Brendan Border
Staff Writer

The Oconee River Greenway is in danger of erosion due to river blockage caused by the remains of an old dam.

An old dam built for use on the Oconee River just a few hundred feet from the old mill is blocking up the river, and the erosion is eating away at the bank at the Greenway. Several trees have already fallen because of such erosion.

According to Doug Oetter, a geography professor at GC, we might not have half of the Greenway in a year from now.

Oetter is in the process of talking to the city of Milledgeville to bring about a dam modification to free up the river and prevent the erosion from taking away a space that many know and love.

In 1821, the General Assembly granted the right to build a mill was along the river, called Treanor Mill. Later, it was converted into a hydroelectric power station used to bring electricity to the town of Milledgeville. A second channel was built on the river, along with a series of dams nearby to bring water down from the main channel to power the turbines.

Over the years, sediment and dirt have clogged up the old dam and has only allowed

a slow trickle of water to move down the main channel. As a result, the secondary channel is flowing too strongly, causing serious erosion.

Oetter believes that the rapids caused by this are within Category 2-3. To the unsuspecting kayaker or someone floating down the river, this section can be extremely hazardous and could flip their kayak.

Craig Henry, the president of the Oconee River Greenway Foundation mentioned that this fix needs to happen soon or else the Greenway could be washed out. The Oconee River Greenway Association, whose funds are raised by ORGF, brought in a consultant and looked at the issues with erosion and proposed an \$800,000 fix.

Henry mentioned that this would not be a total removal of the dam but a small modification that would open it up by 15 feet, allowing for better water flow and relieving the banks from the strong current.

Oetter suggested the fish in the Oconee River as a means to doing this dam modification. By opening up the dam, fish habitats would flourish. Fish would be able to swim upstream and downstream freely, allowing for better spawning. Oetter also mentioned that with the dam modification, Milledgeville would be able to set up a whitewater section of the river for whitewater kayaking.

"It's called a cutbank, and it's where, because the river is going around a corner, it speeds up on the outside of that corner, and it just keeps washing away the bank, and

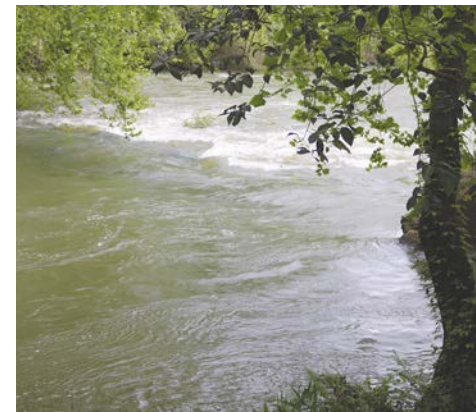
it is encroaching," Oetter explained. "It's already knocked down about five trees, and it is encroaching towards the sidewalk, and it threatens to cut off the whole north end of the Greenway, meaning we won't have access to that anymore. This will all be done by science, ecology, history, and will promote water quality, recreation and fisheries."

The next step, according to both Oetter and Henry, is to bring a consultant from the Army Corps of Engineers to Milledgeville to take a look at the proposition and start moving. This is because the only people who are authorized to complete the dam modification are the Army Corps of Engineers because they are in charge of protecting national parks across the U.S.

"We haven't really had approval from the city or the government to do this," Henry said. "We've talked off the record to them, and they seem to like the idea. There's been no opposition. If they would have felt like it would have been a problem, they would have stopped us from working on it, but that's the next step, to get somebody from the Corps here, show them what we want to do, get a game plan together. Then we go to the county and city together [for funding]."

Student opinions vary regarding how the issue should be remedied.

"They should just get rid of it, just get rid of what is causing the issue and restore the water back to the main channel," said sophomore Lindsey Kellogg, a theatre major. "Whatever would be the best solution for the



Madi Hartly / Staff Photographer

Some rapids are now Category 2.

water, the river and allowing us to go and enjoy the Greenway, because at the end of the day, I don't want it to be taken away if there's something wrong with it."

Sophomore Caroline Conner, a psychology major, said that she would strongly support a dam modification and save the bank of the river.

"Yeah, you have to protect [the northern half] because that's like the most important part of the Greenway," Conner said.

No matter what, the GC and Milledgeville community is eager to address the danger of erosion and protect the treasured Oconee Greenway.

GC School of Nursing changes grading scale

Wilson Roberts
Staff Writer

GC's School of Nursing will be changing its grading scale and adding a new class and new prerequisite that will go into effect this summer.

These changes will adjust the grading scale to be in line with the grading scale used by all other majors at GC. In addition to the new grading scale, the nursing program is adding a new class and new pre-requisite.

In the current grading scale for students in the nursing program an A is a score of 91 – 100, a B is an 83 – 90.9, and a C is a 75 – 82.9. Starting this summer, a grade from 90 – 100 will count as an A, and an 80 – 90 will become a B.

These grading changes came after a long and thorough conversation with faculty and administration for the Nursing School.

"We talked a lot about these changes and felt like they were the right move," said Deborah MacMillan, director of the School of Nursing.

Debbie Greene, assistant director of undergraduate programs for the School of Nursing, agreed with MacMillan, and said she thinks these changes are good for the students.

"We found through looking at students from the past ten years, that if our students pass our courses, they will be prepared for the Licensure Exam," Greene said.

GC students have a 95% pass rate for the exam if they pass their classes.

Greene also explained other reasons for why she thinks the changes were a good idea.

"Having an 82 be a C on student's transcripts hurt not only their HOPE GPA, but also their chances of getting into graduate school," Greene said. "By keeping the high standard for passing, we can be more lenient towards A's and B's."

Students currently enrolled in nursing courses will be graded on the old scale.

While some may think it's unfair that new nursing students will have more possibilities for A's and B's due to this policy change, other current nursing students like the change.

Cohort President Chantel Lafleur said she is happy about the changes.

"Along with class time, nursing students have clinicals in Milledgeville, Macon, and Dublin throughout the week," Lafleur said. "Balancing school, work, study time and a social life is a stressful challenge and having to maintain higher grades to achieve the same GPA adds to the stress load. Although present and past nursing students were not able to experience the changes, students in the future semesters will have the opportunity for a fair representation of their performance in the classroom."

Nursing students will also see a course change. Currently nursing students take a required pharmacology course in either their

freshman or sophomore year, before they are accepted into the nursing program. This course will now be included in the cohort curriculum.

"The course on pharmacology is going to be combined with another course and will [be] called patho-pharmacology," Greene said. "We moved this course into the nursing program because students would often forget what certain drugs did because they took the course freshman year and didn't see the material again until junior year."

To replace pharmacology as a prerequisite for the nursing program, a new class called "Healthcare Delivery" will be added.

"Since it is important for nurses to be familiar with the healthcare field, we are adding the Healthcare Delivery course, so they will be knowledgeable about it before graduation," Greene said.

The nursing program will also include more simulation in the last semester courses of the nursing program.



UNSUNG HEROES

Mary W. Butts

Caroline Duckworth
Copy Editor

In the 441 Diner of GC's Max dining hall, students lined up for the comfort of home-cooked food. The warm smell of fried chicken, green beans and cornbread filled

the diner. Behind the glass of the hot line stood Ms. Mary, leaning forward to talk to the next student, spooning steaming-hot peas and chicken onto plates.

The line of students trailed outside of the diner, but Ms. Mary kept things moving. She was a patient and calm presence amid the clamor of plates and conversation. Sometimes she offered a smile to a coworker or took the



Patrick Steimer / Staff Photographer

Ms. Mary serves food to hungry GC students in the 441 Diner in The Max.

time to ask students how they were.

Mary W. Butts, lovingly called "Ms. Mary" by students, said that greeting and meeting students is her favorite part of her job at The Max.

"It's terrific cause a lot of them need that, somebody's care, cause they're away from home," Ms. Mary said. "I try to make them feel as comfortable as possible. I can tell when they're having a bad day."

This is why she prefers being at the front of the house. She has worked several positions at The Max, from deli prep to cook to salad bar. With positions up front, like salad bar and hot line, she gets to know the students, and they get to know her.

"Actually, a couple of them up here know where I stay," Ms. Mary said. "They come by my house, we sit down and chat, and I enjoy chatting with them."

Ms. Mary said she speaks up for students. If one asks for something different, she goes to the back to tell the chef.

One student, a cross-country runner who has since graduated, always ate the cashews and sunflower seeds at the salad bar for energy. When they were taken off the line, Ms. Mary made a point to get them from the back for him.

"And he told me, he said, 'You don't know how much these sunflowers and cashews help me with my running,'" Ms. Mary said. "It makes a difference."

When she asks students if they're going home for the weekend, Ms. Mary tells them to be safe and that she'll see them Monday morning.

"She always asks me how my day is going," said sophomore Sidney Parker, an environmental science major. "I really feel like she cares about me."

Students also sometimes ask her to pray for them when they're having a bad day, and she assures them she will.

"Cause I'd want someone to do the same for my kids if they were going to college," Ms. Mary said. "Make them feel welcome, make them feel like somebody here do care."

Coworker Tracy Webb said that she enjoys working with Ms. Mary and that she's a very friendly person with coworkers and students alike.

Outside of work, Ms. Mary said she loves fishing and going to church. She also stays at home cooking for and babysitting her nine grandchildren.

She has taught one of her granddaughters how to play softball, and she is currently teaching another. Even though it's fast pitch



Patrick Steimer / Staff Photographer

Ms. Mary enjoys greeting students.

softball, which is different from what she used to play, she can still teach them the fundamentals. She said that her grandchildren are what keep her young.

"They say when you get 60, you get old," Ms. Mary said. "I don't get old. They [her grandchildren] keep me full of spirit."

This passion for softball traces back to Ms. Mary's childhood and is actually how she met her husband. He used to follow her team when she played softball as a young girl.

"And so he asked on a date, and we went on a date, and ten years later, we got married and been together ever since," Ms. Mary said.

Now she and her husband have been married for 38 years. Together, they have five grown kids and nine grandchildren.

She also spends much of her time with her brother, who is in the VA hospital and has Alzheimer's and prostate cancer.

"When I leave here [The Max] every day, I go out there and sit with him till 9 o'clock at night," Ms. Mary said.

When asked what she enjoyed doing for herself, she said she just liked helping others and giving back.

"That's my blessing for the day," Ms. Mary said. "That's how I get my blessing, by helping others."

Even though she said her hands are often full, she knows can still give to others. She said this attitude was instilled in her by her mother.

"I try to give back cause you never know when you're going to need someone," Ms. Mary said. "You got, you give."



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CATSPY awards begins new tradition for GC sports

Emily McClure

Graduating News Editor

The GC Student Athletic Advisory Committee presented its inaugural CATSPY awards ceremony at the Centennial Center on April 19.

The CATSPYS, modeled after ESPN's annual ESPY awards ceremony, combined two traditions in GC Athletics: the annual senior banquet and the annual presentation of athletic memorial awards.

"My favorite part about it is that the genesis and the execution, everything came from the student athletes," said GC Sports Information Director Al Weston. "It was for them and by them, and that was the coolest part."

The committee designed the ceremony from start to finish, from naming the hosts to picking the menu.

"They did it all," said committee adviser and head volleyball coach Gretchen Krumdieck. "I helped them reign in their ideas a little bit and organize it, but they did a lot of it on their own."

Softball player Shawnda Martin, a senior special education major, and Riley

Williams, a junior mass communication major who works in GC Sports Information, hosted the evening. They introduced the seniors and coaches who spoke onstage and cracked jokes about the various teams and coaches.

"It was kinda hard, cause some teams are stick-in-the-muds, and they just don't wanna have fun," Martin said with a laugh. "But I could see my teammates in the front row, and I'd look at them like, 'Am I doing good?' And they'd be like, 'Yeah!'"

Martin said her favorite part of the show was a video honoring all the coaches. And as each team or sport was honored throughout the night, the hosts played montage videos of their best moments throughout the year.

"All the programs have had a really good year this year, and so everybody was in a good mood, and it was really fun to celebrate all the accomplishments because there were a lot of things to talk about that night," Krumdieck said. "It just brought everybody together to celebrate all of us and what we can do."

The hosts introduced each coach who came up to the stage to present the winning athletes with their awards, including memorial awards such as the Kurtz award

and the Bill Childers award. These memorial awards are given to the student athlete who most exemplifies the behavior of the person the award is honoring.

The evening's first award, the Peeler Award, is named in memory of Michael Peeler, GC's former athletic director and head golf coach, who was instrumental in obtaining the funding to build the Centennial Center but did not live to see its completion.

"It's pretty cool," said Thomas Hodges, the golf player and senior marketing major who won the Peeler Award. "It's crazy the names that have gotten it, and the amount of hard work that everyone's put in to build this place and build the program, to build the golf program, and it's just a good feeling."

The ceremony also included a number of new awards created by committee members specifically for the CATSPYS, such as male and female player of the year, male and female freshman of the year, male and female transfer of the year and team performance of the year.

Each team nominated a candidate from their team for each new award, and the coaches voted on the nominees.

"There wasn't any set criteria," Krumdieck said. "It was just, for example, 'who on your team, that is a freshman, do you think made the biggest impact on and off the court?'"

Krumdieck said one of the most special aspects of the evening was seeing the entire GC Athletics family in one location, which doesn't happen often.

"We're not all together that much like that," she said. "We are a tight-knit group, but it just brought us together a little bit more."

The CATSPY awards will continue as an annual tradition at GC.

"It was such a fun night to celebrate GC Athletics," Krumdieck said. "I just can't get over how much fun it was."



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Logan Mattix poses with Wendell Staton, holding his Senior Male Athlete of the Year award.

CATSPY AWARDS

<i>Peeler Award:</i>	<i>Thomas Hodges</i>
<i>Kurtz Award:</i>	<i>Charlie Hecht</i>
<i>Comeback Player Of The Year:</i>	<i>Kristen Jones</i>
<i>Female Freshman Of The Year:</i>	<i>Caitlyn Davis</i>
<i>Male Freshman Of The Year:</i>	<i>Jordan Thomas</i>
<i>Play Of The Year:</i>	<i>Cheyenne Rentsch's goal vs. Columbus State</i>
<i>Female Transfer Of The Year:</i>	<i>Emily Crowell</i>
<i>Male Transfer Of The Year:</i>	<i>Bradly Cammack</i>
<i>Team Of The Year:</i>	<i>GC Women's Soccer</i>
<i>Bill Childers Award:</i>	<i>Neil Jones</i>
<i>Senior Female Athlete Of The Year:</i>	<i>Katherine Yost</i>
<i>Senior Male Athlete Of The Year:</i>	<i>Logan Mattix</i>

How to assemble the ideal winning doubles pair

Caroline Snider
Staff Writer

Creating the perfect tennis doubles team is not as simple as one may think. Many practices and collaborations happen in the process of making a doubles team.

With the regular season in the spring, the team spends much of its time in the fall working on making the best doubles team possible.

The process of creating a winning doubles pair consists of each athlete playing with a different partner several times to see which two people work best. After practicing a few rounds with each person, the coaches and players talk about it, see who plays together the best and come to a final decision.

“It takes two players who are a little different and that bring different skills to the table,” explained head tennis coach Steve Barsby.

The personalities, the mental games and the types of players all play a role into creating the partnership.

“You have to have a balance,” Barsby said. “You play around and see what works.”

Besides the number of players on the court, there is a major difference between singles and doubles.



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Junior Valeria Lopez and senior Jena Kelly practice as a doubles pair to improve their team chemistry.

“Singles is more of an internal battle within the player,” Barsby said.

In doubles, the players must have a great sense of court awareness to know where their partner is. Doubles can be difficult because the players worry not only about themselves,

but also about their partners. Barsby describes doubles as a relationship.

“When you get along and everything is good, you do well,” Barsby said. “If not, you usually break up.”

One of the doubles pairs from the women’s team is junior Valeria Lopez and senior Jena Kelly.

Lopez is a transfer from Spain, so she has been partners with multiple people throughout her tennis career. Lopez and Kelly have been partners since the first time they practiced together at the beginning of Fall 2017 because they seemed to click on the court. Lopez said she and Kelly work very well together.

However, when Kelly graduates, Lopez will have to find a new partner again. Transitioning partners takes a lot of practice.

“You have to learn how your partner works and which game is best for your partner in order to be successful,” Lopez said.

Lopez said she prefers doubles over singles.

“I enjoy doubles because you have someone to pick you up if you are down,”

Lopez explained.

Senior Pedro Ecenarro from Spain and freshman Enzo Kohn from Brazil are one of the men’s doubles teams. Ecenarro said chemistry and level of intensity play a part into creating a solid pair.

Both Lopez and Ecenarro said it is hard to spend time with their partners outside of their sport because of their busy school and life schedule. However, Ecenarro said they still see each other almost every day at practice.

According to Lopez, her doubles pair practices a few times a week depending on if they need to work on anything, such as drills or changes in their routine.

Based on the results of their matches, partners can change if there is a lack of communication or if they are not doing well.

“It can be a big change, but it just takes a lot of practice to understand that person and how aggressive of the player he is,” Ecenarro said.

The men’s and women’s tennis teams hope to make it to the NCAA Finals on May 9 in Surprise, Arizona.



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Freshman Gabriel Caron returns a volley during practice.

The background of the entire image is a dark blue and green gradient, representing a sports field at night. Two bright stadium light fixtures are visible on the left and right sides, casting beams of light across the field.

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MILLEDGEVILLE FILM EATONTON FESTIVAL



**Katie
O'Neal**
Staff Writer

The Milledgeville Film Festival, a six-day festival for filmmakers, producers, directors and technicians, was expanded to Eatonton for

the 2018 festival. This year's theme was Southern Gothic films, but the festival also focused on women's impact in filmmaking and new media.

Milledgeville claims many attractions for the film industry: Andalusia, the Greenway, Bartram Forest and Central State Hospital.

GC hosted screenings for the festival in the Arts and Sciences Auditorium and the awards ceremony in the Magnolia Ballroom.

"I think the festival is great for the community because we're bringing international filmmakers, and they fall in love

with the town," said Abigail Murphy, director of social media for the film festival and GC alumna.

"Some of the film producers and directors use this time to scout certain locations for future films. Personally, I love the festival. I know GC is trying to embrace more film, so I think it's great to expose the students to the talent all around the world and show all these different styles of cinematography.

"Filling In"

The short film "Filling In" competed in

the Family and Inspirational category.

"'Filling In' is in a comedy, fantasy, family film," said Bradley Hawkins, the director.

"It is a very twisted version of [the] tooth fairy story."

The film takes the myth of the tooth fairy and flips it upside down. In "Filling In," the tooth fairy is not the philanthropic figure most people imagine.

"[The role of the tooth fairy] is really a multi-billion-dollar industry, and you have to see the movie to find out more about that," Hawkins said.

Hawkins was a marching band director in the 1980s. When he retired, he started acting in theater in California. An agent who saw him in a play suggested that he should be doing more than just acting, so Hawkins started working with films.

Hawkins left California and moved to Pennsylvania. He started acting again in 2012. Now, Hawkins is primarily a director, but he acts in between directing films.

Clyde Bryan

Clyde Bryan is a film technician who has worked on over 120 films over the last 40 years. He has primarily worked on movies, but within the last few years, he has worked

on a few television shows. He recently worked on was the first season of "Stranger Things" and "Home Again," which stars Reese Witherspoon.

As a child, Bryan loved going to movies. He grew up idolizing the people who made the movies instead of the stars in the pictures. He wanted to know how the technicians put the film together and how the technicians could incite feelings in an audience by strategic editing.

Bryan started making his own films in high school. When he was 25 years old, he moved to California to fulfill his dream of making movies. He started working in the film industry in the 1970s and worked his way up. He lived in California for 32 years, until Bryan and his wife sought out a different lifestyle in Milledgeville.

"The film I'm proudest of would be 'Road to Perdition' because of my task in that picture," Bryan said. "The 'Back to the Future' pictures were a lot of fun to make—hard, but a lot of fun."

Bryan was on the Film vs. Television panel at the festival. He and other panelists discussed how the line between films and television is blurring.

"In the last 10 years, there has been a revolutionary change in movie making procedures," Bryan said. "Switching from chemical and film to digital has made a remarkable change not only in how pictures are made but how the sets are run. It used to cost money any time you turn the camera on, and now it really doesn't cost much money. [Because of this change], running around with camera rolling all of the time has begun [to be] the norm in my experience."

A different perspective

Elyssa Gerber
Staff Writer

Justin Heard's computer talks to him. It reads aloud whatever text or images are on the screen. His phone also talks to him. Using the iPhone Voice Over setting, Heard is able to have text conversations and use different apps. Heard does everyday activities differently than others because he was born blind.

Heard, a freshman special education major, wants to get a master's degree in teaching blind students. He chose to attend GC because it is one of the only colleges in Georgia that has a special education cohort.

Heard grew up with four siblings. Already being the youngest in the family, he received extra attention from his parents. Being born blind added to this treatment, but his parents were unaware of how to raise a child who could not see.

Due to the expenses of braille books and the lack of knowledge of how to teach a blind child at home, he attended a public school. While he excelled in academics, Heard did not learn how to do typical day to day tasks such as cooking and cleaning.

"I was receiving lessons from the school on how to navigate, cross the streets and different things like that," Heard said. "Other than that, simple daily living things were overlooked."

Heard was the first in his family to not be home-schooled. This impacted his brother and one of sisters, who decided to go to high school at public schools.

"I was fortunate to be able to be around other blind students during after school programs," Heard said. "Unfortunately, there also tended to be a lot more bullying for me. The students would steal my chocolate milk or run off my cane. I would play into it and try to fight them back, but that was hard."

Heard grew up not knowing how people were living socially. He did not feel confident to go to parties and would typically go home and read books. This influenced him to spend a gap year at BLIND, Inc. in Minneapolis in a nine-month program entitled "Blindness: Learning in New Dimensions."

The program works with blind students and adults. The goal is to give people the skills they need to take the next step towards employment, whatever that may be.

"I got training on how to cook, sweeping floors, mopping and that kind of thing," Heard said. "We had different job classes, and we also had a woodshop class. It was fun using the table saw and what not. It gave me the confidence to live on campus and interact with more people."

Others have noticed the advancements in Heard's daily life due to this training.

"When he first got here, we walked him to his classes, but he did not even need help even using the crosswalk due to his training," said David Anderson, director of the Student Disability Resource Center. "He is fiercely independent."

Heard is very involved with the blind community. He is the president of Georgia Association of Blind Students, a division of the National Federation of the Blind of Georgia. They are responsible for coordinating events for blind people across the state and providing resources for students.

However, Heard still accepts help from people who want to give him directions or hold the door open for him.

"What helps me is if people ask if I need help with something, and I tell them exactly what I need help with," Heard said. "If I say I don't need help, then I am probably trying to figure it out on my own, but I do appreciate when people ask."

He is also a singer and a member of GC's Cat's Meow.

"He is an excellent singer," said Mary Claire Hill, a music theory major. "He amazes me with his

independence, determination and sense of humor."

Heard is also in a relationship with Emily Pennington, who he met through an online game but officially in person for the first time at a convention in Orlando.

"We realized that we had liked each other the whole time, but we thought that it would be impossible," Heard said. "We talked about everything that could possibly go wrong until we finally we just said let's do this, and that was almost two years ago."

Heard credits the success of his relationship to the constant effort put in on both sides.

"Even when you're feeling really low on things, it's continuing to make a choice," Heard said. "You assess the alternatives, and you continue to make the choice to move forward, and it's worked out really well for us. If there's a reason for it, then you find out, and you talk it over, and it always comes out better."



Christian Brook / Staff Photography

Justin Heard was born without the ability to see.



Christian Brook / Staff Photographer

He has downloaded over 29,000 pages of early Christian writings.



“A Moon Shaped Pool,” by Radiohead

By Benjamin Monckton

I would like to dedicate this review to a late friend and one of the most amazing artists I have ever met, Elgin Wells. As a multi-instrumentalist, teacher, composer and stunt pilot, he inspired others to follow every

creative impulse and explore places no one else would dare to go. I will see you in the next life.

Radiohead’s ninth studio album transcends the very fabric of musical form to create

something profoundly eternal, a journey into the psyche of a soul departing from all things worldly and into the abyss of enlightenment. “A Moon Shaped Pool” is deeply personal, the colossal surrender of a soul in the wake of tragedy.

After the album’s release, Yorke’s former partner Rachel Owen, whom he separated from after 23 years, died of cancer. Producer Nigel Godrich lost his father during the album’s recording.

The strategic release of “Burn the Witch,” a track that Radiohead has been working on since 2003, has a greater context today. It provides a critique on the sociopolitical controversies of travel bans and cultural misconceptions. This opening track features

Jonny Greenwood’s string arrangement that whirls around the wisps of Yorke’s vocals.

The album functions in unison with the stages of sleep. “Daydreaming” drifts in and out over a minimalist piano riff that blossoms forward into an orchestral cavalcade of spectral beauty. “This goes beyond you,” Yorke sings in a vulnerable tone, “beyond me.”

Listening to “A Moon Shaped Pool” is like falling into a dream. By the time “True Love Waits” fades into a single note, you have been reborn.

There is much more to Radiohead than words can do justice. Its music has the ability to single out the most isolated of individuals and make them feel heard.



“Physically, I try to study for about an hour a day. I just kind of take turns on my classes. Like on Mondays, I study for politics, and Tuesdays I study for Spanish. I usually rest my mind on the weekends, and I try to be outside when I study.”
-Freshman Shelby Kirkland, a political science major



HOW ARE YOU PREPARING FOR FINALS WEEK?

Compiled by Katie O’Neal



“I [have been] studying beforehand. I [have] relaxation moments, so my mind is not bogged up with all the information and stress. I go to front campus and the Greenway to relax. I definitely focus early in the morning and at night when studying.”
-Freshman Melody Malek, a marketing major



“I have been taking time to chill out like throwing the Frisbee on front campus between studying a lot.”
-Freshman Wilson Moore, an accounting major

“Physically, I go to the gym every day. Mentally, I try to hang out with friends to get my mind off of the stress. I go to the library late at night to study because I focus better at night personally.”
-Sophomore Kevin McBride, a business management major



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Lavender Graduation

**Emmy
Cooper**
Staff Writer

The LGBTQ+ Center put on their seventh annual Lavender Graduation at GC on Friday, April 28. The graduation recognizes the seniors in the LGBTQ+ community.

Florrie McCard, a senior French major, will be speaking at the ceremony.

"For me, this event is really representative of both my own personal growth over the past four years, as well as the accomplishments of the LGBTQ+ seniors here that are graduating," McCard said. "I'd like to think that we are past the point that being gay is a taboo thing and controversial."

Growing up, McCard struggled with identifying herself as gay.

"I [had] wondered about my sexuality though middle school and high school," McCard said. "I got to college and thought, 'OK, maybe I'll figure this out.'"

During her sophomore year of college, McCard's struggles started interfering with her daily activities.

"I really felt like I didn't have anyone at GC that was out and someone I could identify with," McCard said. "I was a CA, and I thought, 'Well, I can't be a CA and be gay.' I was a founding member of Delta Gamma, and



Hetty Bishop / Staff Photographer

Students wait for the ceremony to start. The event supports LGBTQ+ students and their allies.

I thought, 'I can't be a DG and be gay.' I just felt that there were all these things I wanted to do, but I couldn't without being truthful about myself. That might seem silly, but it didn't seem silly to me at the time."

McCard studied abroad in France during her junior year and suspected that would be her time to figure herself out.

"I told a few friends that I suspected it before I left because I didn't want them to think that Florrie went to France and came back a lesbian because that wasn't true," McCard said. "I don't think you have to go to a foreign country to find yourself, but I just felt in France that I didn't have everyone's expectations of me that I had in the U.S., so that's why I felt that sort of freedom."

After returning to GC for her final year, McCard decided to be open with everyone about her true self.

"It hasn't been a secret," McCard said. "If I'm telling a story about a girl or something, I won't change the pronouns. Part of the reason I did that was because I thought maybe I could help people. People have come to me with questions about my story, and they have told me some of theirs, and then making that effort to be open about it is what led to this lavender graduation moment if you will."

McCard said that back in August, she didn't know if the Lavender Graduation was something to participate in.

"After I was asked to speak, I knew that this is my time to be that person that I've wanted to be since I was a sophomore," McCard said.

Melissa Gerrior, program coordinator for GC's Women's Center, planned this year's ceremony.

"The Lavender Graduation is a cultural ceremony that celebrates our LGBTQ+ and their allies' graduations," Gerrior said. "It [recognizes] students that might have faced certain challenges to overcome while they were in college and takes the time to recognize their accomplishments."

Jennifer Graham, director of the Women's Center, works closely with the LGBTQ+ community on campus.

"I think all of our students deserve to be celebrated, especially when they are graduating," Graham said. "Sometimes the LGBT students don't have the same level of support as some other students on campus, whether it's from family or friends. The coming out process can be one that shrinks their community, so I think that makes it appear important that all of our students are celebrated and supported."

At the graduation, McCard delivered her final words to the LGBTQ+ community and the GC community.

"I've accepted my truth," McCard said. "I've claimed it in ways big and small...Now's my chance to go out into the world beyond Georgia College and see how my truth truly can transform. And you know what? It may even make the world a little more beautiful along the way."



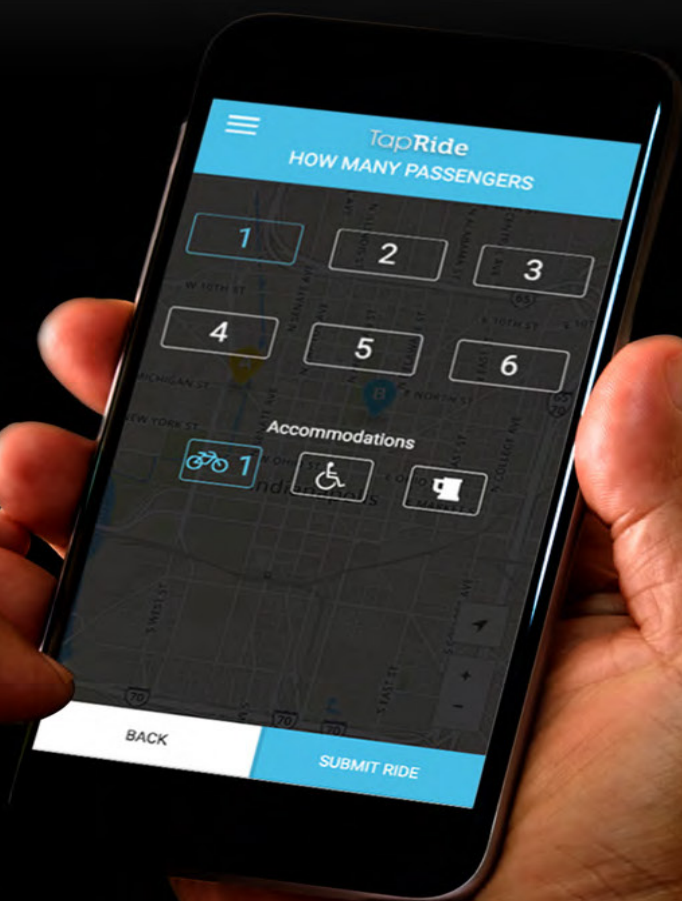
Hetty Bishop / Staff Photographer

Graduation attendees listen to Sandra Worsham, the keynote speaker.

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